

THE RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION (SOUTH COTSWOLD GROUP)

CONSTITUTION [As amended at 1 December 1996]

1. NAME AND DEFINITION

The organisation is a local Group of the Gloucestershire Area of the Ramblers' Association and its name is the Ramblers' Association South Cotswold Group. The above bodies are hereafter referred to as 'the Area', the 'Association' and 'the Group'.

2.* OBJECTS

The objects of the Group are to further within the territory specified in the succeeding clause the objects of the Association in such ways as the Area governing body may from time to time decide and subject to the overriding control of the National Council of the Association.

3. TERRITORY

The Group shall function in the Stroud District and the extreme south-west of the Cotswold District or such territory as may be agreed with the Council of the Area from time to time.

4.* MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Group shall consist of all individual members of the Association as are allocated to the group by the national Executive Committee in accordance with the national constitution and standing orders.

5.* RELATIONS WITH THE AREA AND THE ASSOCIATION

The Group shall act in agreement with the Area Council and the Executive of the Association, and in particular shall act in all respects as through Clause 4 of the Association's Constitution, which controls the activities of the Area, applied to the Group.

6. MANAGEMENT

- (i) Subject to the directions of any Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting as to the exercise of its powers, the management and control of the Group shall be vested in a Committee which shall consist of the Honorary Officers and as many members of the Group as the Annual Meeting shall from time to time decide, with a minimum of 3. All members shall retire annually, but shall be eligible for re-election.
- (ii) The Committee shall decide when and where it shall meet.
- (iii) Four members shall form a quorum.
- (iv) It shall have the power to co-opt additional members.
- (v) It shall have power to fill casual vacancies.
- (vi) It shall report regularly to the Council of the Area.
- (vii) A special meeting of the Committee shall be called by the Secretary as soon as may be on the request of the Chairman or not less than two members of the Committee.

7. OFFICERS

- (i) The Honorary Officers of the Group shall be a Chairman, a Secretary and such other officers as the Group in General Meeting may determine, to be elected at the Annual General Meeting.
- (ii) They shall retire at the Annual Meeting following their election, but shall be eligible for re-election.
- (iii) The Committee shall have power to fill vacancies.

8. SUB-COMMITTEES

The Committee shall have power to appoint sub-committees and to determine their powers and terms.

9. RESIGNATION OR RETIREMENT

Any member of a Committee may vacate his office if:

- (a) he gives notice of his intention to resign and if his resignation is accepted.
- (b) he fails to attend three consecutive meetings of the Committee as may be convened unless the failure to attend was due to some reason approved by the Committee.

10. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

In the last quarter of each year the Committee shall convene an Annual General Meeting of the Group, of which not less than fourteen days' notice shall be given in writing to each member of the Group, and which all members of the Group shall be entitled to attend, to:

- (a) Receive the Annual Report of the Committee and the audited statement of accounts for the previous year.
- (b) Appoint the Honorary Officers.
- (c) Elect the Committee.
- (d) Appoint an auditor or auditors.
- (e) Discuss and consider motions, notice of which shall have been given in writing to the Secretary.
- (f) Vote on any proposals to amend the constitution in accordance with Clause 14 hereof.
- (g) Appoint representatives to the Council of the Area.

11. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

The Chairman or the Secretary may at any time, and within 21 days of receiving a request to do so, signed by not less than one twentieth of the members of the Group with a minimum number of ten members, and giving reasons for the request, call a Special General Meeting, of which fourteen days' notice shall be given. The notice of the meeting shall contain notice of the matters to be discussed and the terms of any motion which it is intended to move.

12. FINANCE

The Hon. Secretary, or such other officer as the Committee may decide, shall keep proper financial accounts and shall keep the Committee informed as to the position.

13.* DISSOLUTION

If, in the event of the dissolution of the Group, confirmed by a majority of those present and voting at a General Meeting of the Group, there remains after satisfaction of its debts and liabilities any property whatever, it shall be transferred to the Area.

14.* ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION

- (I) Insofar as any alteration or amendment is not inconsistent with the Constitution of the Association, this Constitution may be amended subject to approval by the Area Council at any General Meeting, in accordance with the approval of a two-thirds majority of members present and voting, but those clauses marked with an asterisk may not be altered without the permission of the National Executive Committee of the Association.
- (II) Any proposal for such alteration must be delivered in writing to the Secretary of the Group not less than twenty-eight days before the meeting of the Group at which it is to be discussed and not less than fourteen days' notice of this meeting, giving the terms of the proposed alteration, shall be given to the members of the Group.